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A Sad, and True

RELATION

Of six Seamen, who sold themselves to the

DEVIL.

Though this following Relation, contains matter of very great Wonder and Amazement; Nevertheless it comes to our hands, confirm'd by that sufficient Testimony, that we offer it to the Reader, as a Narrative of unquestioned Truth and Reputation.

By a Letter from *Barbadoes*, dated the 23 of *July* last, written by a person of worth and credit in that Island, we have this strange and amazing Relation: That the *Margaret* from *Boston* the 21 of *December* 1696, Bound to *Barbadoes*; In their Passage, one of the Sailors at the Helm, did call unto the Master of the Vessel, and told him that he could not steer no longer; Then the Master asking the Reason, he replied, that he was not well, and for that Cause quitted his Post. Upon this the Master went immediately and took the Helm; The said Sailor did likewise further declare, that there stood a Spirit by the Binnacle, that accused him of killing a Woman, a fault which the said Spirit had justly accused him withall, for he never committed any such unmanly Crime in his Life; The Spirit he said, likewise further told him, that all the Ships Company had contracted and signed an Agreement with the Devil; which was used as an Argument for to entice him to do the same.

The next day after, the Fellow fell into most strange *Deliriums*, and talked of wonderfull Accidents that would certainly befall the Ship; the which were looked upon as nothing, thinking this proceeded from the wild Notions of his crazed Senses, the *Chimera's* of Frenzy, Particularly he said, That the Spirit had brought a Boar to fetch him away, with other ridiculous idle Discourse of that Nature.

Upon the 17 of *January*, in the Latitude of 19, about 9 at Night, a small and white Cloud arose, without any Rain or extraordinary Wind, which presently falling upon the Ship, pressed her down with strange, and indeed supernatural weight and force, that the Hatches flew out, and the whole Ship was under water, by which unhappy Accident, the Boy was washt off and drowned.

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But here to begin the more miraculous part of my Narrative, the Ship continued weeks under water, a thing that struck (as may well be imagined) an extraordinary amazing Consternation and Confusion through all the Mariners, from several strange sorts of Arguments of their Astonishment. First, That the Ship it should be so wholly immerg'd under the Water, and yet not to sink down right to the bottom. Secondly, That tho' they were apparently thus under Water, and yet the Ship was not wholly filled with Water, but that they had Air enough for to breath in, by which great Means they continued alive and feeding all that while upon Raw Meat, and fresh fish, which came swimming over the Vessel, and several of which they eagerly caught and eat: Their Lodging was on Boards Plank'd, the which were placed arround the Raily, near the Tail-rope, covered with a Sack. The men were always wet, which in so long a time, made that impression upon them, that their flesh on their Bodies was galled and Raw:

But what was the most amazing and dismallest part of all, was, Six of the Ship Crew, upon the sinking of the Vessel under Water, were frighted with Infernal Spirits, and about twelve the very first night, were carried away invisibly, leaving no more than four perished alive behind them; Which indeed gave some little and small Credit, to what the forementioned Sailor at the Helm, had declared in his Deliriums.

After this Eleven Weeks immurement in these wondrous watery Walls, for so I may justly call it, the Ship recovered her self again, and the first Land they could discover was the Island of *Disfiado*, which, with so few hands left, they could not fetch up, by reason of a strong Northren Current that bore against them, the next was *Grand Terra*. Where they arrived with the same disappointment; But on the fifth of April, they run themselves upon the shore upon *Gaurdelopo*, where the *French* treated them very kindly, not as prisoners.

The Names of the three Seamen left alive, are, *William Davis* Master (a Man very well known in *London* amongst the *Barbadoes's* merchants) *William Cadner*, and *William Bywater*.

Not only the Original Letter, and the whole Relation at large, is for to be seen at Mr. *Loyd's* Coffee-house in *Lombard-street*, where likewise several persons are to be heard of, and spoken withal upon the *Royal Exchange*, in Attention of the whole Truth herein declared.

The Reverend M. *Baxter* in his Treatise of Spirits, says, That tho' Hurricanes and tempests have natural Causes, yet there is great Reason to think they are managed by Spirits. Confirmation whereof, he hath related many notable Instances of his own particular delirances, from the fury of most Boysterous Whirl-winds. Namely, when the Reapers in *Evesham* Vale were hurt, writhen, and one killed, some Friendly power (for so he presses it) restrained the Course of Gravelly Sand, rais'd by a Whirl-wind, as it met him in a Narrow Lane.

Licenced according to Order.

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